study for the development of Dedicated Freight Corridors on the Delhi-Mumbai Western Corridor and Ludhiana-Sonnagar Eastern Corridor. The Study is likely to by completed by October 2007

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITES) has submitted a Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey (PETS) report in January 2007 for both the corridors. As per the report, the 1483 kms long Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Mumbai) to Tughlakabad/Dadri Western Corridor and the 1279 kms. long Ludhiana to Sonnagar Eastern Corridor is estimated to cost a total of over Rs. 28,000 crores. RITES has been asked to conduct a feasibility study for extension of Eastern corridor to Kolkata area in view of possibility of increase in freight traffic on account of proposed deep sea port.

Conversion of Stations of Gujarat into World Class

†127. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to convert some railway stations of the country into world class railway stations;

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering to convert some railway stations located in the State of Gujarat into world class railway stations;

(c) if so, the names of stations which would be converted into world class stations and by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. From the State of Gujarat, Ahmedabad railway station is one of the stations identified for development as World Class station through Public Private Partnership route by leveraging the real-estate potential at the stations. The time-frame by which these stations would be converted into world class stations has not been planned as yet.

Train from Bangalore city to International Airport

128. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce an exclusive train from Bangalore City to the new Bangalore International Airport at Devanahalli;

(b) if so, by when it would be undertaken and completed;

(c) what would be the exact route that the train would undertake;

(d) what is the total estimated cost of the project; and

(e) what would be the fare of the journey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) There is no such proposal with the Railways.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Electrification of Chennai-Madurai track

129. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stage of electrification of Chennai to Madurai Railway track; and

(b) how many other electrification proposals in Southern Railway are pending and at what stages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) On Chennai-Madurai rail line, Chennai-Villupuram section is already electrified. Electrification work of Villupuram- Tiruchchirappalli section is in progress and targeted for completion by March 2009. Electrification of Tiruchchirappalli-Madurai section has been included in Budget 2007-08 and preliminary works are being taken up in hand.

(b) There is one electrification proposal i.e. Madurai-Tuticorin-Nagarcoil section (262 Route Kilometres) of Southern Railway is under examination.

Budget hotels in Tamil Nadu

130. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Budget Hotels are proposed to be built by Railways in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the places earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In order to meet the requirement of the passengers, this Ministry has decided to setup 100 Budget Hotels over Indian Railways. Out of these, 9 Budget Hotel locations have been identified by the Indian Railways in the State of Tamil Nadu. These are Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore, Rameshwaram, Ooty, Kanyakumari, Tuticorin, Madurai and Kodaikanal Road.

Shifting the office of Chief Engineer from Thiruvananthapuram to Chennai

131. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway has decided to shift the office of the Chief Engineer (Construction) from Thiruvananthapuram to Egmore, Chennai; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Chief Engineer (Construction), Thiruvananthapuram Office was decided to be shifted to Chennai with a view to have better coordination with Officers of various departments headquartered at Chennai. However, the orders issued in this regard shifting headquarter of Chief Engineer (Construction), Thiruvananthapuram to Chennai have been cancelled for the present.